

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 20-24 are pending. Claims 1, 8, 15, 18 and 24 have been amended. Claim 19 has been canceled. The specification has been amended. No new material has been added.

Specification

The Patent Office objected to the specification. The specification has been amended in conformity with the suggestions of the Patent Office.

Claim Objections

The Patent Office objected to claims 1, 8, 15 and 19 under 37 CFR § 1.75(a) for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention or discovery. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 19 has been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 8, and 15 are definite, and should be allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Patent Office rejected claims 1, 8, 15, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because the specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Applicant respectfully traverses, however, Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended and are believed enabled for a person of ordinary skill in the art. Claim 19 has been canceled

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Patent Office rejected claims 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being clearly anticipated by Fukuda (US 5625714 A).

Applicant respectfully traverses; however, claim 18 has been amended to include limitations of claim 19, and thus is believed allowable. Claim 20 depends from claim 18, and thus is believed allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Patent Office indicated that claims 1-17 and 21-23 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and the Rule 75 objection set forth in the Examiner's Office Action.

Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended.

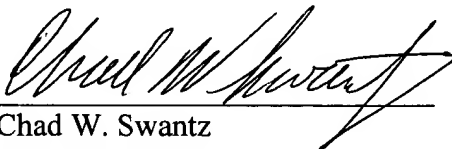
The Patent Office further indicated that claims 19 and 24 would be objected to as depending from a rejected base claim.

Claim 18 has been amended to include limitations of claim 19, and thus is believed allowable. Claim 19 has been canceled. Claim 24 depends from claim 18 and thus is believed allowable.

CONCLUSION

The application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. In the event the indication of allowability is withdrawn, applicants reserve the right to amend the claims back to the original form for further prosecution, without prejudice, disclaimer or estoppel. In the event that issues arise in the application that may readily be resolved via telephone, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned Attorney at (402) 496-0300 to facilitate prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
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